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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,599	02/19/2004	Takayuki Yamamoto	Q79835	3181

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EXAMINER

ZEMEL, IRINA SOPJIA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1711

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/780,599

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Irina S. Zemel

Art Unit

1711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 16-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/19/04; 5/19/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Invention Group I in the reply filed on 12-15-2005 is acknowledged.

Claims 16-19 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 12-15-2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 8-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious JP 2002-322303 to Diacel Denko Co., (hereinafter "Diacel").

Diacel discloses compositions containing polypropylene and a thermoplastic polyolefin rubber in the amounts of 90: to 10:90. The reference further discloses addition of inorganic powdery particles, such as aluminum hydorxide in the amounts of up to 5 parts by weight. The reference while disclosing the melt tension of individual components, does not address the melt tension of the entire composition. However, in view that the reference discloses fairly high melt tension characteristics of the base polymer, and further contemplates addition of powdery components, it is believed that the final compositions disclosed in the reference inherently exhibit the claimed melt tension properties. Further, it is noted that the applicants only measure the melt teansion of the final compositions and give characteristics of the polymeric components used in the compositions via their melt index values. It is further noted that the Diacel reference disclose ultrahigh molecular weight polylefins, which inherently correspond to the polyolefins with very low MI. While it is noted that the applicants provide some comparative examples that show the advantages of polymeric compositions that have the claimed melt tension characteristics, it is, as discussed above, reasonable believed, that while the compositions disclosed in Diacel are not characterized in terms of the same physical properties, the claimed properties inherently present in the disclosed compositions. The burden is shifted to the applicants to provide evidence to the contrary.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diacel in combination with US Patent 3,915,910 to Nakano et al., (hereinafter "Nakano").

The disclosure of Diacel is discussed above. The Diacel reference does not disclose the size of the particulate fillers, however, the claimed particle size is the most common size for particulate aluminum hydroxide used as nucleating or flame retardant agent. See for, example, Nakano, column 2, lines 52-54, and, thus, use of the particles with the claimed size would have been obvious as the most common particle size used in industry for flame retardant purposes absent showing of unexpected results that can be clearly attributed to the size of the claimed particles. Furthermore, the Nakano reference discloses that in order to achieve markedly improved flame retardant properties in polyolefins, or to make the composition "self-extinguishing" the amounts of hydroxides (such as aluminum or magnesium) should be about 45 % of the amount of compositions, or about 1:1 ratio with the polyolefin polymer, which fully corresponds to the claimed amounts.

The invention as claimed, thus would have been obvious from the combined disclosure of the above cited references.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Irina S. Zemel whose telephone number is (571)272-0577. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9-5.

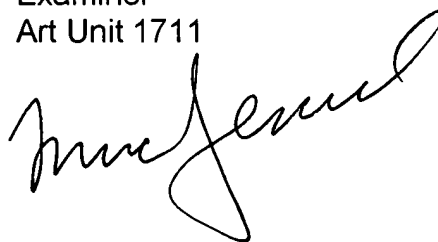
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on (571)272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ISZ

Irina S. Zemel
Examiner
Art Unit 1711

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irina S. Zemel', written in a cursive style.